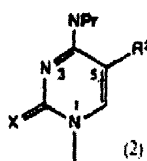
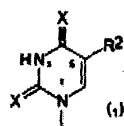


In the Claims

Please cancel claim 1 and insert claims 128-138 as presented below:

128 (New). An oligomer comprising at least two nucleomonomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein at least one of said nucleomonomers comprises a base of formula (1) or (2):

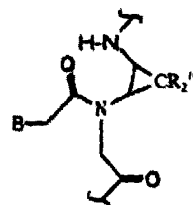
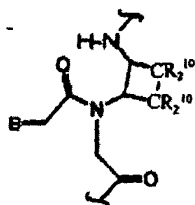
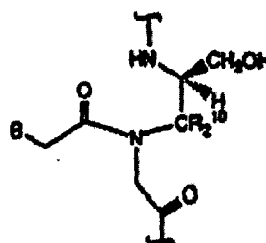
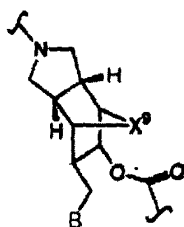


wherein each X is independently O or S;

R² is a group comprising at least one pi bond connected to the carbon atom attached to the base; and

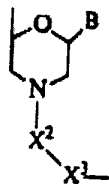
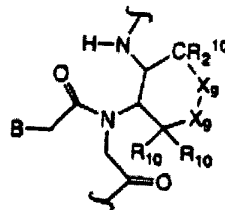
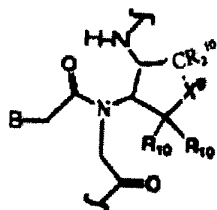
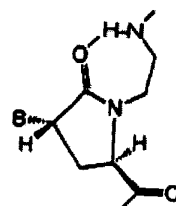
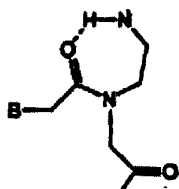
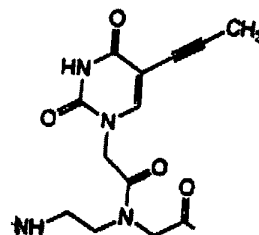
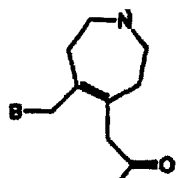
Pr is (H)₂ or a protecting group,

wherein said oligomer includes at least one unit having one of the following formulas:



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PATENT



wherein

B is a base, provided that at least one B is a base of formula (1) or (2);

X^9 is S, O, SO, SO₂, CH₂, CHF, CF₂, or NR₁₀, provided that adjacent X^9 are not both O;

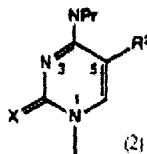
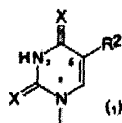
R¹⁰ is, independently, H, F, OH, OCH₃, CH₃, or CH-lower alkyl;

X^2 is CO, CS or SO₂; and

X^3 is O, S, CH₂, CF₂, CHF, NH, NCH₃.

al

129. (New) A method of detecting the presence, absence or amount of a particular single-stranded DNA or RNA or a particular target duplex in a sample comprising:
selecting an oligomer having at least one base of formula (1) or (2):



wherein each X is independently O or S;

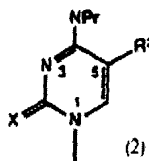
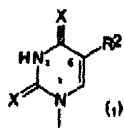
R² is a group comprising at least one pi bond connected to the carbon atom attached to the base; and

Pr is (H)₂ or a protecting group; and

using said oligomer to detect said DNA, RNA or target duplex.

130. (New) The method of 129 wherein said oligomer is used for quantitating the amount of said DNA, RNA or target duplex in said sample.

131. (New) An oligomer comprising at least one base of formula (1) or (2):



wherein each X is independently O or S;

R² is a group comprising at least one pi bond connected to the carbon atom attached to the base;

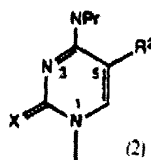
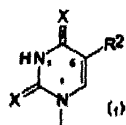
Pr is (H)₂ or a protecting group; and
at least one conjugate linked thereto.

132. (New) The oligomer of claim 131 wherein said conjugate is a radioactive conjugate, a fluorescent conjugate, or an enzyme conjugate.

133. (New) The oligomer of claim 131 wherein said conjugate is a fluorescent conjugate.

134. (New) The oligomer of claim 131 wherein said conjugate is selected from the group consisting of fluorescein, resorufin, rhodamine, BODIPY, texas red, alkaline phosphatase, horseradish peroxidase, biotin, antibodies, antibody fragments, transferrin and the HIV Tat protein.

135. (New) A method of performing a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to amplify a target sequence comprising including in a PCR assay mixture an oligomer having at least one base of formula (1) or (2):



wherein each X is independently O or S;

R² is a group comprising at least one pi bond connected to the carbon atom attached to the base; and

Pr is (H)₂ or a protecting group; and

effecting a polymerase chain reaction to amplify said target sequence.

136. (New) The method of claim 135 further including a Taq polymerase in said PCR assay mixture.

137. (New) A method of performing a nucleic acid amplification protocol to amplify a target nucleic acid comprising including in an assay mixture an oligomer having at least one base of formula (1) or (2):

